



August 8, 2013

First Name Last Name
First Line Address
Second Line Address
City, State Zip

Dear Member:

Did you know that Public Act 98-0019 allows Medicare ineligible annuitants of all five state retirement systems (SERS, SURS, TRS, JRS and GARS) to opt out of the State's health plan coverage and receive a monthly financial incentive?

Who is eligible?

- Anyone who has other comprehensive coverage through another employer or a private policy is eligible to opt out of the State's health plan. Note: Annuitants electing to opt out cannot be enrolled as a dependent in any other plan administered by CMS (i.e., Teachers' Retirement Insurance Program (TRIP), College Insurance Program (CIP) or Local Government Health Plan (LGHP)). Annuitants will be required to submit proof of this other coverage on an annual basis.
- To qualify for the financial incentive, annuitants must currently be enrolled in the State's health plan (or opted out during the FY2014 Benefit Choice Period).
 - Any annuitant with 20 years or more of state service will receive \$500 per month when opting out of the State's health plan.
 - Any annuitant with less than 20 years of state service will receive \$150 per month when opting out of the State's health plan.

Eligible annuitants have until **September 30, 2013**, to elect to opt out of the State's coverage under this public act. After that date, annuitants will only be permitted to opt out with either a qualifying change in status or during the annual Benefit Choice Period.

Annuitants interested in opting out and receiving the incentive must complete an opt-out application (found on the Benefits website, www.benefitschoice.il.gov, or by contacting their retirement system). Along with the application, annuitants must also provide proof of other major medical insurance from an entity other than the CMS.

Opting out will terminate health, dental and vision coverage for the annuitant and all dependents. Annuitants opting out of the program will retain basic life insurance coverage and if eligible may still elect optional life insurance.

Questions about the program should be directed to your retirement system.

Sincerely,
CMS Group Insurance Division